

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 /141 W

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P R 260505 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 763

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7226

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP APRIL 25, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 0429

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, APRIL 25

1. SUMMARY: LARGE NUMBER OF ENEMY KILLED PHU CU PASS NEAR BINH DINH. MILITARY ACTION OTHERWISE LIGHT. ORDERLY DEMONSTRATORS IN NINH THUAN ASK ICCS TO PREVENT FURTHER ENEMY ACTS OF TERROR SUCH AS EASTER SUNDAY EXPLOSION IN PHUOC THIEN.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION THIS PERIOD WAS ENEMY ATTACK BY FIRE FOLLOWED BY GROUND ASSAULT ON ARVN COMPANY POSITION NEAR PHU CU PASS IN NORTHERN PHU MY DISTRICT, BINH DINH, AFTERNOON OF APRIL 24. ACCORDING TO SKETCH ACCOUNT PRESENTED AT REGIONAL TOC IN NHA TRANG THIS MORNING, ARVN TOOK NO LOSSES, REPULSED ATTACKING FORCE AND THEN, WITH STRONG " REACTION FIRE,"
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KILLED 37 ENEMY. ALSO CAPTURED FOUR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. (" REACTION FIRE" IN THIS CASE PRESUMABLY MEANS TACTICAL AIR STRIKES.

ALL 38 OF VNAF " TRAINING MISSIONS" FLOWN IN MR 2 ON APRIL 24 WERE IN BINH DINH.)

3. OTHER ELEVEN REPORTED ENEMY INCIDENTS WERE CONSISTENT WITH PATTERN OF LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, WITH SMALL, MOBILE VC FORCES HARASSING AND PROBING GVN UNITS IN THEIR OUTPOSTS OR PLANTING MINIST FINNISH ASSOCIATION WITH EC, BUT TOWARD EC RULES OF ORIGIN IN GENERAL AND TO EXTEND THE RULES DISCRIMINATE AGAINST INCORPORATION OF THIRD COUNTRY COMPONENTS IN FINNISH PRODUCTS, US AND FINNISH INTERESTS COINCIDE. FINNS CONCEDE THAT NEW RULES SEEM MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN OLD EFTA RULES, BUT MAINTAIN THAT ON THE WHOLE EFFECT WILL NOT BE MORE RESTRICTIVE. THOSE FAMILIAR WITH RULES AGREE THAT IF PROBLEMS WITH THIRD COUNTRY COMPONENTS AROSE, MOST LIKELY AREAS WILL BE IN TEXTILES, MACHINERY AND ELECTRONICS. FINNISH EXPERTS MAINTAIN, HOWEVER THAT (A) DURING COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO FORESEE SUCH DIFFICULTIES, AND THAT SPECIAL CONCESSIONS WERE OBTAINED WHERE WARRANTED (E. G. PAPER-

MAKING MACHINERY) AND THAT (B) IN THE CASE OF TEXTILES WHERE RULES SEEM PARTICULARLY RESTRICTIVE, OLD EFTA RULES WERE IN EFFECT EQUALLY RESTRICTIVE.

4. SINCE RULES OF ORIGIN DO NOT YET APPLY TO BILATERAL TRADE WITH EC AND NEW RULES APPLY TO EFTA TRADE ONLY AS OF APRIL 1, MAJORITY OF EXPORTERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORCED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM; FURTHERMORE, FINNISH EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT 80 PERCENT OF FINNISH EXPORTS WILL QUALIFY EASILY WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO MULTILATERAL CUMMULATION PROCEDURE, AND THAT ONLY VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF REMAINDER WILL RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING ORIGINATING STATUS. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT SEEMS TOO EARLY TO EXPECT PROBLEMS, AND EMBASSY HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY SPECIFIC CASES.

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5. OBSERVATION WAS MADE BY SEVERAL PEOPLE THAT MOST SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT OF RULES OF ORIGIN MAY STEM FROM FACT THAT THEY ARE SO COMPLEX THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPELLING REASONS TO THE CONTRARY, MANUFACTURER IS LIKELY TO FAVOR EC ORIGINATING COMPONENT OVER THIRD COUNTRY COMPONENT MERELY TO BE SURE OF QUALIFYING UNDER RULES OF ORIGIN. THIS WILL APPLY NOT ONLY TO PRODUCTS DESTINED FOR EXPORT TO THE EC, BUT TO ALL PRODUCTS FOR WHICH THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF EXPORT.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EXERCISE HAS BEEN USEFUL IN HELPING TO FOCUS FINNISH ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM AND POINTING OUT MUTUAL INTEREST IN AVOIDING UNECONOMIC DIVERSION OF TRADE. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO BE ON ALERT TO POTENTIAL DIVERSIONS OF TRADE FROM

RULES OF ORIGIN REQUIREMENT AND WILL REPORT ANY THAT
COME TO OUR ATTENTION.
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